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his delay in dismissing *Haidari*, probably from personal motives, causes us a loss of two thousand pounds sterling.

DJAFER,
Agent.

Telegram of the administration to Dr. Moschides.

May 29.—Act on orders of May 27. Report reasons for delay.

VITALIS.

Reply of Dr. Moschides.

Bassorah, May 30.—Detained *Haidari* because your dispatch was sent before you were informed of the suspected plague death. That unexpected occurrence obliged me to wait for further instructions relative to ship and pilgrims. Await instructions relative to pilgrim regime.

MOSCHIDES.

Telegram of administration to Dr. Moschides.

May 29.—Suspected plague death on *Haidari*. What origin?

VITALIS.

Reply of Dr. Moschides.

Bassorah, May 30.—Suspected plague death occurred on board *Haidari* in our port. Physician and captain attempted to keep secret. Guards charged with oversight of the vessel discovered the body at the moment when the relatives were about to drop it overboard into the water. After visiting suspected plague corpse I questioned captain who confessed to the case, but threw the responsibility of concealment on the physician. On arrival of the vessel physician reported that he had 5 deaths from ordinary diseases and that at that time he had a case of acute fever. On first day a sick pilgrim died as soon as landed. Asked reason of nondeclaration. Pretext, had only heard of case the last moment and attributed it to pneumonia. Later occurred the plague case of which he pretended ignorance.

MOSCHIDES.

Telegram to Dr. Moschides.

May 30, 1899.—Telegram received. *Haidari* and her pilgrims will be subjected to fifteen days' quarantine at lazaretto. The pilgrims shall be landed at lazaretto. Isolate and strictly watch sick and apply all measures which the situation requires.

VENEZUELA.

Mortality statistics in Maracaibo during 1898.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
Maracaibo, May 8, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to forward inclosed a Spanish copy taken from the Official Gazette of the State, referring to the number of deaths and their causes, which occurred during the year 1898.

Taking the population of the State of Julia at 85,000 inhabitants, of which falls to the city of Maracaibo and its suburbs about 55,000 inhabitants, the death list shows a total of 2,285. From the list it is seen that 305 persons died of various fevers. Only 2 cases of yellow fever are reported, but this is an error. In the column of fevers are 183 cases of fever stated as not specified; I know that a good many should be placed under the name of yellow fever. The 2 cases mentioned as yellow fever were 2 young Germans, newly arrived, employed by German firms.

It is well known that the people of the Cordillera States coming on business to Maracaibo are more liable to get the yellow fever with serious results than the foreigners; the latter are well taken care of by their countrymen, until acclimated. Another item of interest is the

large number of deaths from tuberculosis, amounting to 204 cases. Tetanus, 58 cases are reported; it seems that in these tropical climates the slightest wound will produce tetanus. The most serious items in this list are the diseases of the digestive organs, among them dysentery with 363 cases. Entero-colitis 107 cases, and 90 of enteritis, without mentioning the long list of deaths from other digestive troubles.

The reason of such large number of deaths from digestive diseases has, no doubt, its origin in the bad condition of the drinking water; it should be remembered that in this city no suitable drinking water exists, except such as is gathered by well-to-do people in their rain tanks. The poorer classes drink the brackish water of the lake or water gathered in holes during the rainy season.

Of interest is also the small number of deaths produced by snake bites; the reason, I presume, is the very thin population of the State outside of Maracaibo, and the few small adjoining towns. Of the deaths among the Indian tribes which roam in this State, no record is known.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

E. H. PLUMACHER,
United States Consul.

The honorable the ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

[Inclosure.]

MORTALITY IN MARACAIBO, VENEZUELA, DURING THE YEAR 1898.

Total deaths from all causes.....	2,285
Yellow fever.....	2
Typhoid fever.....	24
Dysenteric fever.....	31
Fever, not specified	183
Pernicious fever.....	43
Various fevers.....	22
Total for all fevers.....	305
Tetanus.....	47
Traumatic	41
Infantile.....	38
Tuberculosis—pulmonary.....	118
Intestinal.....	10
Laryngeal	6
Not specified.....	70
Dysentery.....	363
Entero-colitis	107
Enteritis.....	90
Deaths from snake bites.....	7

FOREIGN STATISTICAL REPORTS.

AUSTRALIA—*New South Wales—Sydney.*—Month of April, 1899. Estimated population, 426,950. Total number of deaths, 453, including diphtheria, 3; enteric fever, 11; scarlet fever, 1; whooping cough, 15, and 31 from phthisis pulmonalis.

Queensland—Brisbane.—Month of March, 1899. Estimated population, 105,734. Total number of deaths, 118, including diphtheria, 6; enteric fever, 4; scarlet fever, 5; whooping cough, 2, and 8 from phthisis pulmonalis.

BERMUDA.—Two weeks ended June 9, 1899. Estimated population, 15,013. No deaths and no contagious diseases.